

Voluntary - Public

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Venezuela

Post: Caracas

Retail Sector Situation and Supermarket Tour

Report Categories:

Agricultural Situation

Retail Food Sector

Livestock and Products

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Report Highlights:

FAS/Caracas visited some major supermarket chains and a PDVAL (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela (BRV) owned retailer) store to check on groceries supplies. Post reports on food and beverages availability and shortages.

General Information:

State-owned Food Distribution Stores

Despite recent media reporting on products shortages in PDVAL the store visited was well supplied. The store was crowded and consumers were buying a variety of products. Recent statistics show that near 40 percent of Venezuelans have purchased in a PDVAL store and more than 50 percent in MERCAL (another BRV owned retail chain).

Visits to Major Supermarket Chains

Compared to the supermarket visits that were done by this office two months ago, the stocks are at the same level, or higher in some cases (especially for sugar and rice). Among the products verified as readily available were: apples, pears, oatmeal, powdered milk, UHT milk, sugar, rice, beef, poultry, eggs, salt, breakfast cereals, corn flour, tuna, vegetable oil, butter, margarine, coffee, juices, yellow cheese, and wheat flour. Several leading chains were visited.